

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 4 and 6 as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The brush seal device according to claim 1~~ A brush seal device mounted to one of two parts that move relative to each other with a gap therebetween, for sealing the gap between said parts, comprising:

a brush seal formed from bristles arranged into a wall shape, and including an attachment portion formed by connecting said bristles together at one end, and a free end face facing an opposing surface of said other part;

a back plate connected to said attachment portion of said brush seal, and including a support surface for supporting a side surface of said brush seal, said support surface having an annular projection extending therefrom, and said back plate further including a recess that accommodates a bended portion of said bristles resulting from a differential pressure;

a retaining plate for retaining said attachment portion of said brush seal between said retaining plate and said back plate,

wherein said support surface of said back plate and an opposing surface of said brush seal are disposed at a distance from each other, and said bristle of said brush seal has a diameter of 0.15 mm to 0.008 mm, and further comprising

another annular projection extending from an inner peripheral end of said support surface.

5. (Currently Amended) A brush seal device mounted to one of two parts that move relative to each other with a gap therebetween, for sealing the gap between said parts, comprising:

a brush seal formed from bristles arranged into a wall shape, and including an attachment portion formed by connecting said bristles together at one end, and a free end face facing an opposing surface of said other part;

a back plate connected to said attachment portion of said brush seal, and including a support surface for supporting a side surface of said brush ~~sea~~ seal; and

a retaining plate for retaining said attachment portion of said brush seal between said retaining plate and said back plate, wherein

said support surface of said back plate and an opposing surface of said brush seal are disposed at a distance from each other,

said bristle of said brush seal has a diameter of 0.15 mm to 0.008 mm,

wherein said back plate includes a recess formed along an arrangement direction of said bristles,

said recess serves as said support surface, wherein

said bristles of said brush seal are tilted from said attachment portion, and

said support surface of said back plate or a side surface of said retaining plate facing said brush seal includes a resistance means for preventing said bristles from moving in such a direction as reduces their tilt angle.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The brush seal device according to claim 1~~ A brush seal device mounted to one of two parts that move relative to each other with a gap therebetween, for sealing the gap between said parts, comprising:

a brush seal formed from bristles arranged into a wall shape, and including an attachment portion formed by connecting said bristles together at one end, and a free end face facing an opposing surface of said other part;

a back plate connected to said attachment portion of said brush seal, and including a support surface for supporting a side surface of said brush seal, said support surface having an annular projection extending therefrom, and said back plate further including a recess that accommodates a bended portion of said bristles resulting from a differential pressure; and

a retaining plate for retaining said attachment portion of said brush seal between said retaining plate and said back plate,

wherein said support surface of said back plate and an opposing surface of said brush seal are disposed at a distance from each other, and said bristle of said brush seal has a diameter of 0.15 mm to 0.008 mm, and

wherein said annular projection is disposed in a center of said support surface.